

Application No. 10/786,337
November 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed August 25, 2004

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add new Claims 5-8 as follows.

Following entry of the amendments in this Amendment, the pending claims in the present application read as follows:

Claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. (Original) A combine harvester having at its rear end separate chaff and crop residue
2 discharge openings, a chopper for cutting the crop residue into small pieces, and a chaff
3 discharge device for dispersing the chaff exiting from the chaff discharge opening, wherein the
4 chaff discharge device is movable between a first position in which chaff can fall to the ground
5 without passing through the chaff discharge device to lie in a string behind the combine harvester
6 and a second position in which the chaff passes through the chaff discharge device and is
7 dispersed laterally away from the combine harvester, characterized in that the chaff discharge
8 device is further movable to a third position in which chaff leaving the chaff discharge device is
9 directed to enter the chopper through an opening that is different from the opening through
10 which the crop residue is admitted into the chopper.

1 2. (Original) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chaff discharge
2 device is a spreader capable of spreading not only the chaff but also the crop residue and
3 wherein, in its second position, the chaff discharging device lies in the path of crop residue that

Application No. 10/786,337
November 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed August 25, 2004

Page 3

4 does not enter the chopper so that both unchopped crop residue and chaff are dispersed
5 simultaneously by the chaff discharge device.

1 3. (Original) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in its first position, the
2 chaff discharge device permits access to the chaff discharge opening to assist in maintenance of
3 the combine harvester.

1 4. (Original) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opening in the
2 chopper, through which the chaff from the chaff discharge device enters the chopper, is covered
3 by a hinged flap.

1 5. (New) A combine harvester comprising:
2 separate chaff and crop residue discharge openings located at a rear end of the combine
3 harvester;
4 a chopper for cutting the crop residue into small pieces; and
5 a horizontal chaff discharge device for dispersing the chaff exiting from the chaff
6 discharge opening laterally away from the combine harvester, wherein the chaff discharge device
7 is movable between a first position in which chaff can fall to the ground without passing through
8 the chaff discharge device to lie in a string behind the combine harvester, a second position in
9 which the chaff passes through the chaff discharge device and is dispersed laterally away from
10 the combine harvester, and a third position in which the chaff leaving the chaff discharge device
11 is directed to enter the chopper through an opening that is different from the opening through
12 which the crop residue is admitted into the chopper.

Application No. 10/786,337

Page 4

November 15, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed August 25, 2004

1 6. (New) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 5, wherein the chaff discharge device is
2 a spreader capable of spreading not only the chaff but also the crop residue and wherein, in its
3 second position, the chaff discharging device lies in the path of crop residue that does not enter
4 the chopper so that both unchopped crop residue and chaff are dispersed simultaneously by the
5 chaff discharge device.

1 7. (New) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 5, wherein, in its first position, the chaff
2 discharge device permits access to the chaff discharge opening to assist in maintenance of the
3 combine harvester.

1 8. (New) A combine harvester as claimed in claim 5, wherein the opening in the chopper,
2 through which the chaff from the chaff discharge device enters the chopper, is covered by a
3 hinged flap.